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Timor

Aust claims oil under Timor Sea

From PATRICK WALTERS

CANBERRA. — Australia will lay claim to the potentially oil-rich area known as the Kelp Prospect in the Timor Sea when talks on the disputed seabed border with Indonesia resume next month.

Federal Cabinet agreed yesterday to a joint submission from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Hayden, and the Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator Walsh, on guidelines for the talks.

The demarcation of the 350 kilometre-long gap — the key area of dispute between the two countries — has taken on added significance since the discovery of the Jabiru oil field.

While Jabiru does not lie in the disputed area the Kelp structure is right in the middle of the Timor gap.

Indonesia wants to draw the seabed border midway between the two countries while Australia believes that the line of its continental shelf should form the boundary.

Australia maintains that its continental shelf extends right to the "Timor trench" not far from the coast of Timor.

Australia and Indonesia have negotiated since 1971 to try to delineate the seabed boundary.

Agreement was reached on a border line in 1972 but the Timor gap was left because at that time East Timor was Portuguese territory.

The two governments have held several rounds of negotiations since then on how the gap should be closed, the last round in 1971.

Australia has argued that the gap should be closed by drawing a straight line between the two ends of the Timor gap.

Indonesia does not accept the Australian view, arguing that there is only one continental shelf between the two countries and that a line should be drawn equidistant from Australia and Timor.

Indonesia also argues that under the International Law of the Sea convention it should be allowed a 200-mile exclusive economic zone out from its own shores.

Exploration by oil companies in the Timor Sea indicates that the area could be the biggest prospect since Bass Strait was discovered in the 1960s.

But the Kelp Prospect and other potential fields will remain unexplored until the border dispute is settled.

Cabinet also accepted a submission from Mr Hayden on increased aid and Australian involvement with Indian Ocean island States.

Mr Hayden said yesterday that Australia had important strategic interests in the Indian Ocean and an interest in promoting stability in the region.

In particular Australia will try to build links with Mauritius, the Seychelles and Madagascar.

Cabinet also agreed that there should be a more regular pattern of RAN ship visits to the Indian Ocean. Only one RAN ship, HMAS Canberra, visited the Indian Ocean countries last year.

Mr Hayden said that Australia would become increasingly important to the region as a trading partner and as a source of aid, training, technology and investment.

Indonésie : l des vaches g

DJAKARTA :
François NIVOLON

En pleine expansion jusqu'à la fin de 1981 avec un taux de croissance annuel de 8 %, l'économie indonésienne traverse depuis une période difficile, et la sortie du tunnel n'est pas pour demain. Si les perspectives d'avenir sont encore plutôt bonnes, c'est que le pays dispose d'immenses richesses qui sont loin d'être toutes exploitées. La croissance en 1983 n'atteint pas 3 %. Mais la situation financière est moins préoccupante que celle d autres nations en voie de développement touchés par la récession. La dette publique étrangère, dont le service dépasse 20 % des exportations totalise 23 milliards de dollars U.S., très exactement e montant des remboursements du Brésil en 1983.

Trois facteurs sont à l'origine u présent état des choses. Primo, la chute en valeur des exportations non pétrolières (bois, aoutchouc, étain, café, manioc, extiles) : six milliards de dollars our l'année 1980-1981, quatre illiards en 1982-1983, guère lus pour 1983-1984. Secundo, el à 34 dollars le baril du prix du étrole, puis baisse à 29 dollars u début de 1983. Tertio, diminuon de la demande de produits étroliers et donc de la production. L'Indonésie qui produisait aguère 1,6 million de barils/jour 'est vu attribuer par l'O.P.E.C. n quota de 1,3 million de barils. lle en produit actuellement à eine un million. En conséuence, les ventes de pétrole à étranger ont diminué de cinq illiards de dollars U.S.

La balance du commerce extérieure et celle des paiements, auparavant bénéficiaires, sont maintenant en rouge. La balance des paiements, en excédent de quatre milliards de dollars pour l'année 1980-1981, accusait un déficit de trois milliards de dollars en 1982-1983. A quatre mois de la fin de l'exercice en cours, l'impasse est de l'ordre de six milliards de dollars.

Les réserves du gouvernement en devises au 1er avril 1983 étaient tombées à trois milliards de dollars. Sans joie, l'Indonésie a alors suivi les conseils du F.M.I. et dévalué la rupiah (1) de 37 %. La confiance ainsi rétablie a permis le retour d'un milliard de dollars de capitaux récemment évadés. Le résultat inévitable, c'est l'inflation : 20 % cette année, et une sérieuse diminution du pouvoir d'achat. Un autre point noir est que l'Indonésie, après deux ans d'autosuffisance, importe à nouveau du riz en raison d'une récolte médiocre due à la sécheresse.

« Ali Baba »

Le budget d'austérité est en déficit de 48 %, à combler par des capitaux étrangers. Les fonds publics ne font pas défaut : deux milliards deux cents millions de dollars ont été fournis, en juin dernier, à l'Indonésie, tant par les organisations internationales que par les pays, dont la France, membres du Groupement intergouvernemental pour l'Indonésie. Par contre, les banques étrangères observent depuis un an une prudente réserve. Vingt-trois milliards étaient prévus pour la réali-

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British Campaign for the Defence of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia

TAPOL Bulletin No. 61 January 1984

Going against the stream by Basuki Resobowo page 14

New arrests in West Papua

Paracommandos in Charge

There has been a sharp increase in the number of political arrests in West Papua in the past few months. The new wave of repression appears to be partly the results of activities by paracommando — Kopassandha — troops who now reinforce troops of the Irian Jaya XVIIth Divisional Command in their intelligence and repressive activities, performing a role similar to the one they perform in East Timor. The arrests are also related to a new upsurge in attacks on military posts by Free Papua Movement (OPM) guerrillas in many parts of the country. The military appear to be determined to discover and smash the links that must certainly exist between the OPM and Papuans living in the urban centres.

Kopassandha intelligence units are now operating from a building formerly known as the Panorama Bar in Batu Putih district, Polimak, Jayapura. At the end of December 1983, at least twenty persons were known to be in detention at this building.

Museum curator arrested

The curator of the Anthropology Museum at Abepura, **Arnold C. Ap** was arrested by Kopassandha on 30 November. He was taken from his home early in the morning by troops not in uniform who arrived in a vehicle not bearing a military number-plate. He was driven straight to the Panorama building. For several weeks afterwards, friends and family were unable to make contact with him. In December, the Jakarta Legal Aid Institute cabled the military commander of Irian Jaya protesting that it was illegal for a detainee not to be allowed to inform his family of his whereabouts. The LBH said that the detainee should be properly charged and tried if there was any case against him; if not, he should be released immediately. (**Sinar Harapan**, 16 December, 1983.)

Arnold Ap (38 years) is well known to students of the Cendrawasih University under whose direction the museum is run. He is also an announcer at Jayapura radio and co-ordinator of a popular Mambesak folk song and dance group that is endeavouring to keep Papuan cultural activities alive. Some contacts suggest that the military object to these cultural activities, yet find themselves in a dilemma because they themselves occasionally use traditional Papuan dance and music to lure guerrillas from the bush.

Arnold Ap was arrested and held for questioning for several days about a year ago; he was accused on that occasion of having instigated the students who unfurled a Papuan flag in Jayapura on 1 July 1982. Nothing was proven and he was released; the students were brought to trial and sentenced to several years' imprisonment.

Provincial government officials and students arrested

Kopassandha troops have also arrested **Asser Demotekai** (60 years), who recently retired as Head of the Village Development Directorate of the provincial government. Two Cendrawasih University students were arrested at the same time: **John Rumainum** and **Timo Kambu**. They were both held for questioning for several weeks. According to the latest reports, John Rumainum is still under detention and, like Arnold Ap and Asser Demotekai, is still in Kopassandha hands.

Demotekai, who was arrested on the 18th October, comes from the region of Genjem, to the east of Jayapura, a region of heightened guerrilla activity. In the late seventies, he was chairman of a Traditional Land Rights Defence Committee in Nimboran which campaigned to protect Papuan land rights against expropriation by the central government in favour of Javanese migrants who are now being brought into the region in large numbers. Genjem is the centre of one of the larger transmigration projects in Irian Jaya. It was in this region that Kopassandha troops recently shot dead three OPM guerrillas who had surrendered to the Indonesian forces. Shortly before Demotekai's arrest his son Martinus died in suspicious circumstances. He was a well-known advocate of an independent West Papua. Some friends claim that he was poisoned by the Secret Service. (**Nederlands Dagblad**, 6th December 1983.)

Another provincial government official who is now in Kopassandha's hands is **Titus Dansidan** (50 years), Head of the Social and Political Affairs Department of the provincial government. In the early period of Dutch-Indonesian conflict over the future of West Papua, Dansidan is reported to have taken a pro-Indonesian position. Both Demotekai and Dansidan, senior civil servants, are now being accused of having pro-OPM sympathies.

Constant Ruhukail, a student at Cendrawasih University, is also under arrest; he has recently been engaged in doing fieldwork in Fakfak in connection with his studies. This is his second experience of arrest. Another student, **Yulianus Degei** was also arrested and held for questioning for several months, then released.

Inside: Six more pages of information from West Papua